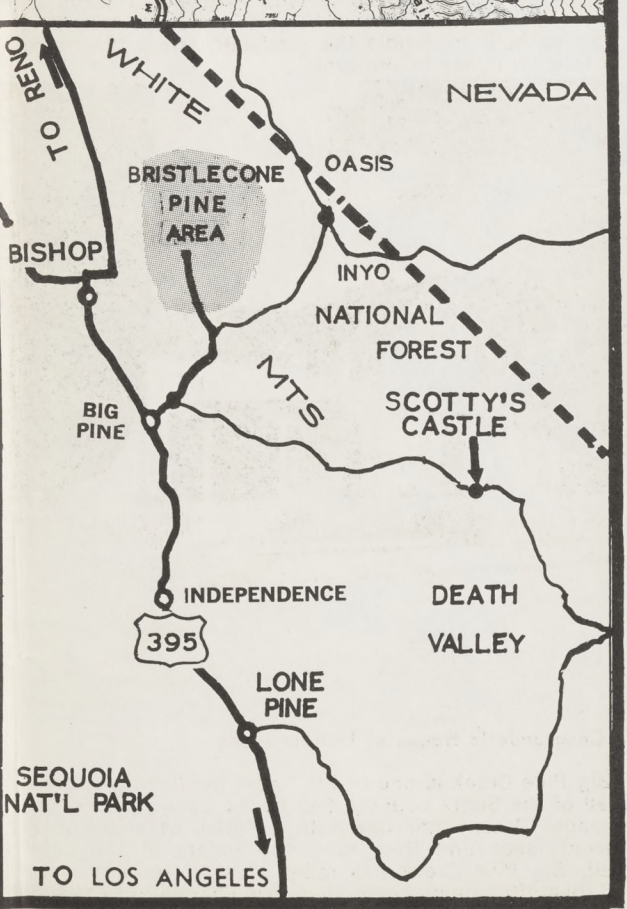


Map Courtesy of Dept. of Water & Power
City of Los Angeles



BIG PINE - INDEPENDENCE

BIG PINE — INDEPENDENCE REGION

The Sierra communities of Big Pine, elevation 4002 ft., and Independence, elevation 3925 ft., stand astride Highway 6 - 395, the main north-south highway that extends from San Bernardino to Bishop, in the trough of the rugged and beautiful Owens Valley. To the west of Highway 6 - 395 rise the towering pinnacles of the mighty High Sierras topped by majestic Mt. Whitney with an elevation of 14,495. This mighty snow capped shaft is visible from Independence, as are many lesser but equally imposing peaks. To the east flows the Owens River, coursing south to irrigate the lower mouth of the Owens Valley, and the huge pipeline syphon that is the Los Angeles Aqueduct. In the distance the peaks of the desolate and barren Inyo Range stand close to Death Valley and the sprawling Panamint Range.

For the hunter, fisherman and the seeker of the beautiful, wild and undisturbed Sierra country the Big-Pine-Independence area has scarcely an equal. For those who are interested in the rugged history of the Old West there is much to see in the Courthouse and Museum at Independence and in the old Fort Independence area located a few miles off the main highway a few miles north of the present day city of Independence. The city is now county seat for Inyo County, and has good motels, restaurants, service stations and all facilities.

Although the area around Independence was under control of local Indians in 1862 and all whites had either been driven out or killed, it was soon brought under control by an expedition of U.S. Army Cavalry that formed the "Mono and Owens River Military Expedition" and was composed of 150 men. It was on the Fourth of July, 1862, that this cavalry group established Camp Independence to protect the settlers who were coming into this virgin land. Even today, much of the wild areas are the same, untouched, as they were when the valley and foothills were the private preserve of the Indians.

The Big Pine-Independence area is the very heart of Owens Valley; a flat expanse of meadows and glacier fed streams that are stocked with good size trout and providing good fishing in the early part of the season. Close by Independence is the Independence Creek that can be fished westward to Gray's Meadow and Onion Valley. A passable road follows the creek and makes it easy to get to one of the best starting points for a variety of trips into the Sierra back country. There are two pack stations in Onion Valley for parties going to Kearsarge, Shepard, Sawmill or Taboose Passes. On Oak Creek, a few miles north of Independence on Highway 395, is another pack station and Mt. Whitney Hatchery.

In the region north of Onion Valley are numerous back-country lakes with excellent fishing and unusual mountain scenery. A portion of this rugged area has been made into the King's Canyon National Park. The famous north-south John Muir Trail connects the trans-Sierra trails, which makes it easy to reach any of a large number of lakes and streams.

Nearly midway between Independence and Big Pine is the Aberdeen with the Aberdeen Resort and then further to the north will be seen Poverty Hills on the west of 395 and Tinemaha Reservoir on the east. The reservoir is an important part of the Los Angeles water system.

Big Pine is a moderate sized community with good motels, restaurants and stores for provisions and supplies. It is also the starting point for many interesting side trips such as the Bristlecone Pine trip, the most direct route to Death Valley, via Scotty's Castle, and the famed Palisade Glacier, southernmost glacier in the United States. The radio telescope installed and operated by the California Institute of Technology is also located here.

Independence retain the charm and flavor of the Old West, with fine old courthouses, one of the most beautiful in California. The old Independence Hotel, the Mary Austin home, and many others that local residents will point out to you.

Of special interest is the stately old Commander's House, used when were in the Inyo Valley in the eight-nineties. This historic house is open to the public, as it has been acquired by the County of Inyo.

In the basement of the Courthouse is a fascinating museum, filled with mementoes of the Owens Valley's past. Gold scales, samples of gold ore, the Little Miners shoes and pick, an early handpress with a sample of the newspaper that it printed. There are firearms, old cooking utensils, autograph albums, invitations and even Valentines.

Among the most interesting objects in the Museum is the display of Indian beadwork, necklaces which tell the story of the maker's life. Indian baskets beautifully designed, also tell stories of these people. The basket making is a lost art, and these samples of these artifacts are highly treasured by the Eastern California Museum.

West of Independence, on the road which leads to Onion Valley is the ruins of the old Kearsarge Mill. This mill was built to handle the production from the many prosperous mines in the area.



The Commander's House at Independence

Big Pine Creek is one of the finest big fishing streams in all of the Sierra country. Fed by the cold waters of the Palisade Glacier that flow into a series of seven magnificent lakes and then form the waters of the creek itself, Big Pine Creek has miles of swift running water and beautiful deep pools that are liberally stocked by

the Dept. of Fish and Game. Much of Big Pine Creek can be reached by paved road that goes from 395 to the foot of Palisade Glacier. Glacier Lodge and the glacier pack train are reached by driving west along the Big Pine Creek Road.

THE ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINES

No visitor to the Big Pine-Independence area, whether he be fisherman, hunter or tourist should deprive himself of the opportunity to see and enjoy gazing upon the oldest living things on earth. East of Big Pine, over Westgard Pass the first stop is Toll House Spring, the only water source on this road to the Bristlecone Pine area. The old Toll House still stands, eight miles east of Big Pine. The original rate sign that specified the charges for riders, wagons, livestock and foot travelers hangs in the Eastern California Museum at Independence.

Five miles from Toll House Spring at the summit of Westgard Pass the U.S. Forest Service has erected a direction sign pointing to the Ancient Bristlecone Pines. It must be mentioned that the official name for this area is the Edmund Schulman Memorial Grove of Bristlecone Pines. Dr. Schulman who was associated with the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, University of Arizona, discovered, and cataloged, much scientific data that will be of great value to the study of climate, water resources, soil erosion, tree longevity and radiocarbon dating.



Bristlecone Pines, northeast of Big Pine.

From the direction sign, it is three miles to the fossil area. Here the traveler may take a sample for himself, to be made into a tie clasp or cuff links. These fossils are in limestone and take a beautiful polish. No commercial collections is allowed, only the traveler enjoying the privilege of taking a sample as a reminder of his visit.

The next stop is the Grand View Campground, and if you have heeded the advice, you have brought your own water, and wood for fire. A picnic lunch and the opportunity to enjoy the view as described by the campgrounds name is in order at this point. Further on and the last point before reaching the Bristlecone Pines is the parking area called Sierra View. This overlooks Owens Valley, the glacier-carved peaks of the Sierra on the western skyline and Deep Springs Valley to the southeast.



Camping near Big Pine



Palisade Glacier

Photo by Mendenhall



Old narrow gauge steam engine at Dehy Park in Independence. Shaded picnic tables on Big Pine Creek located here.

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At Edmund Schulman Memorial Grove of Bristlecone Pines are picnic grounds, exhibits, the trail to Pine Alpha, known to be more than 4000 years old and a wonderland for the photographer. Remember to bring your camera, for the scenic beauty can best be described on film. These are pictures worth having, and in the Bristlecone Pine area are opportunities unlimited.

INYO COUNTY CAMP AND PICNIC GROUNDS

Big Pine and Independence Area

INDEPENDENCE, campground is one-half mile straight west of town on Independence Creek. 45 spaces. Restrooms, surface water, tables.

DEHY PARK, north end of town, Independence, on west side of highway, easily identified by narrow gauge steam engine, all modern rest stop facilities. Shaded picnic tables on Independence Creek. No camping.

Located one block north of the Court House in Independence is the famous old Commander's house. The Eastern California Museum is located in the basement of the Court House and is well worth a visit.

Two miles north of Independence you can visit the old Camp Independence area. Turn east at the historical marker. Plans are being made for a future historical park.

SAWMILL CREEK CAMPGROUND, located on west side of highway, 9½ miles north of Independence. Combination rest stop and campground. 60 spaces. Restrooms, surface water, tables.

TABOOSE CREEK CAMPGROUND, located 12.2 miles south of Big Pine. Inyo County marker west side of highway. Approximately one mile to camp. 100 spaces. Restrooms, pits, tables, surface water, shaded.

GOODALE CREEK CAMPGROUND, 13 miles north of Independence; turn off highway west one block north of Aberdeen Resort. 30 spaces. Restrooms, surface water. Close to supplies and modern facilities. One mile further upstream new modern campground available late summer.

BIG PINE AREA, County Park located west side of highway. Modern rest stop, water, tables, restrooms. No camping. Close to shopping facilities and supplies.

CAMP INYO, turn west on Glacier Lodge Road in Big Pine approximately 2 miles, follow signs. This is part of Inyo County Park and Recreation Department, under the schedule reservation of the County Superintendent of Schools. Its 98 acres of buildings and grounds are oriented for the study of science and conservation, and it is open to schools in and out of the County, Boy and Girl Scouts, and similar groups. Dining facilities, dormitories and convenient showers can accommodate groups of different ages. Nature trails, science labs, amphitheatre, infirmary, trout pond and The Old Swimming Hole are part of the development. For information, and an application, write to Inyo County Superintendent of Schools, Box 128, Independence, California 93526. Phone: Area Code 714 TRipoli 8-2411, Ext. 338.

TINNEHAHA CREEK CAMPGROUND, located 7.3 miles south of Big Pine. Inyo County marker west side of highway. Follow signs 2½ miles to camp, which will accommodate 100 campers. Shade, surface water, fire pit, restrooms.

MAP OF THE HIGH SIERRA BIG PINE INDEPENDENCE

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Sporting Goods
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• HIKING

• HUNTING

• FISHING

• CAMPING

• TRAILER PARKS

• RESORTS

Kym's

GUIDE

No.17

MAPS and CHARTS
of Recreation Areas

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GLACIER PACK TRAIN, Big Pine, Calif. Spot pack and extended trips over Taboose Pass into King's River country. Also Baker, McMurray and Big Pine Lakes near Palisade Glacier, largest, most southerly glacier in the United States.

SEQUOIA-KINGS HIGH SIERRA PACK TRAINS, Gene Burkhardt, Box 176, Independence, Calif. Eastern entrance to Sequoia and King's Canyon National Parks to excellent lake and stream fishing and spectacular high country scenery over four major passes — Kearsarge, Sawmill, Shepherds, Taboose. Choice areas — Rae, Bullfrog, East and Baxter Lakes, Vidette Meadows, Gardiner Basin and many more. Headquarters at Onion Valley. Phone TRipoli 8-2811.



GLACIER LODGE

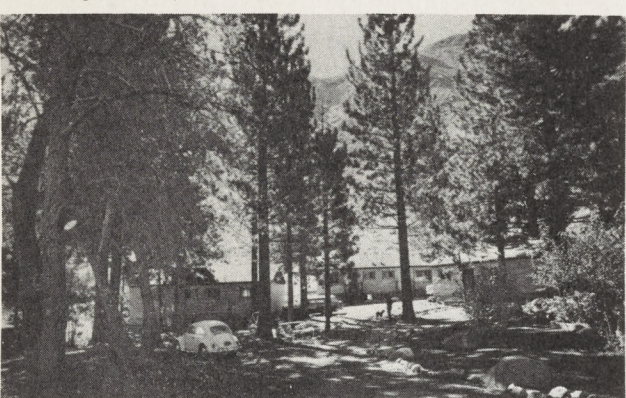
GLACIER LODGE, P.O. Box 658, Big Pine, California. Phone WE 8-2274, Hugh and Pat Lance, owners. At Big Pine, turn west off Highway 395, on paved road for 11 miles. Glacier Pack Train is located on this road, also. This well-known High Sierra resort is the nearest to the famed Palisade Glacier. Located near the headwaters of the north fork of Big Pine Creek in Inyo National Forest, with 10 lakes in the surrounding area, it offers everything for the fishermen, the hiker, and photographer. For those who wish to visit the High Country the Glacier Pack Station is located nearby.

This is an ideal family resort, with playgrounds for the children, a fishing pond, horseback riding, picnicking, an ideal spot to relax among tall pine trees, and green alpine meadows. Glacier Lodge offers every facility for a complete vacation in the High Sierra.

The Lodge has a main lounge, a well-stocked store, dining room, with excellent meals, hotel rooms, and housekeeping cabins fully-equipped with bedding, linen, etc., gas or wood stoves (as you prefer.) Write or phone for reservations.



Fishing at Glacier Lodge.



BIG PINE CREEK RESORT AND BIG PINE CREEK TRAILER RENTALS, P.O. Box 775, Big Pine, California. Eight miles west of Big Pine on Big Pine Creek Road. 7000 feet elevation. Phone Big Pine WE 8-2226 or WE 8-2335. Richard T. Hinds, owner. New, modern cinder block cottages with fully equipped kitchens. Reasonable rates. Excellent stream fishing, horseback riding, hunting, swimming pool. For winter guests, Snow Weasel available for Snow Parties and Ski groups. Bunny slopes, ½ mile and 4 mile ski runs.

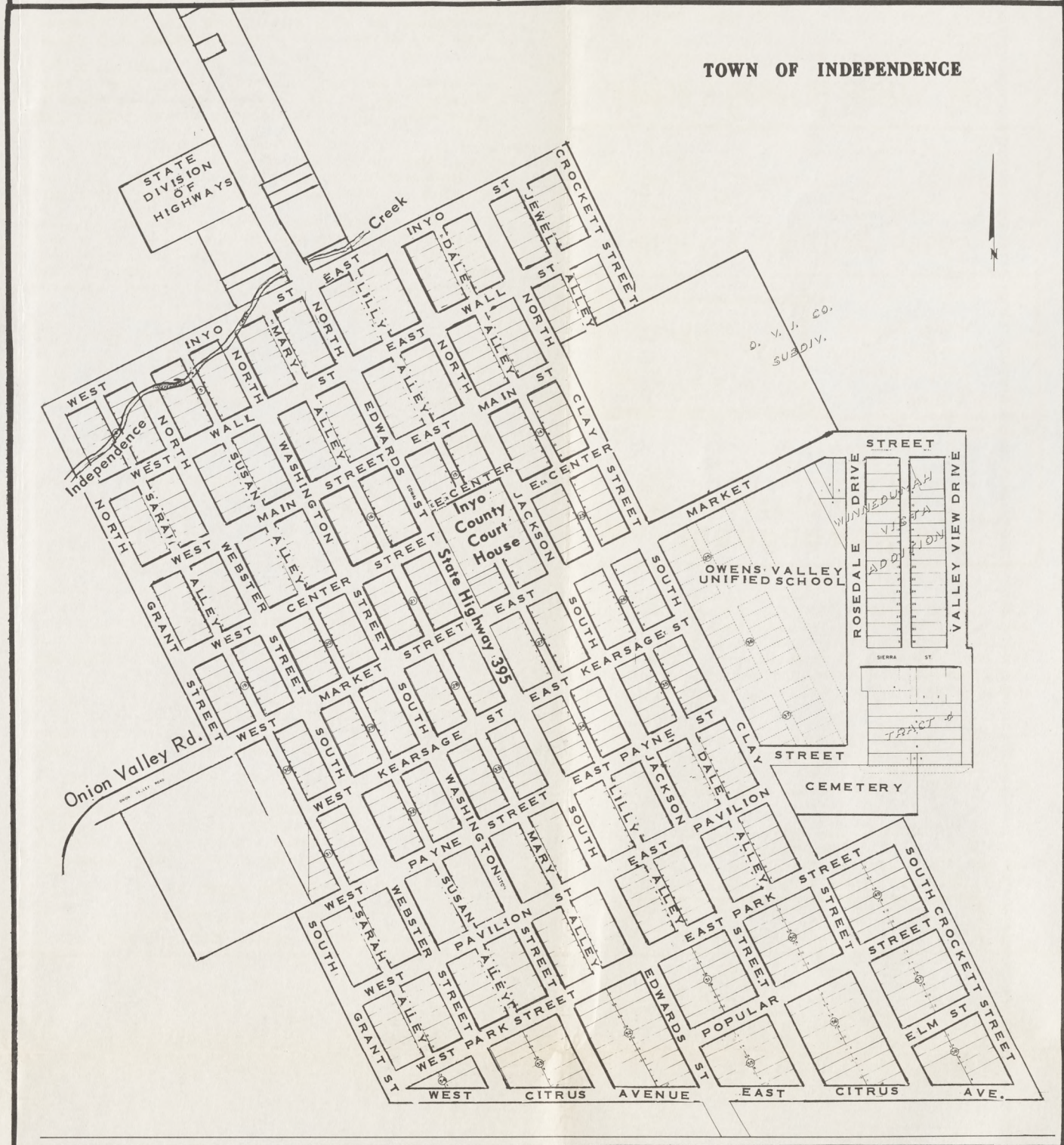
In addition to their additional resort facilities, Big Pine Trailer Rentals offers a special low cost vacation in their trailer or yours. Their trailer park has water, power, toilets, showers, bath, swimming pool, laundrette, barbecue facilities, and fishing in a private stream.

Those who wish to camp in the free U.S. Forestry campgrounds may rent a new or used trailer at a reasonable rate. Write or phone for reservations or brochures.



Big Pine Creek Resort.

Be certain you are prepared for "roughing it" and outdoor living before starting on a pack trip into the back country. Check your gear for sturdy shoes, warm clothing for high country, and know your way. Only those in good health should enter back country or wilderness area. A trip into the true wilderness is, to many, the height of a forest vacation. Those high country mountainous lands are intended for hikers and horseback riders who relish a journey away from civilization. Here camping is primitive in every sense of the word.



TOWN OF INDEPENDENCE

INYO NATIONAL FOREST CAMPGROUNDS

Big Pine - Independence Area

BIG PINE CREEK RECREATION AREA

Located directly west of Big Pine where you can find shopping facilities, motels, churches, and phone service. A highly scenic and deep canyon which is the gateway to the Palisade Glacier (southernmost in the U.S.) A resort and pack station are located in the area. Administered by the District Ranger, Bishop, California.

SAGE FLAT, located 8 miles west of Big Pine on good paved road. In canyon along creek with Jeffrey Pine cover. 31 camps. Stream water, fishing, hunting, hiking. Supplies at Glacier Lodge nearby. Elevation 7500 feet. Season — May to October.

BIG PINE CREEK, located 10 miles west of Big Pine on good paved road. In canyon along creek with Jeffrey Pine cover. 31 camps. Stream water, fishing, hunting, hiking. Supplies at Glacier Lodge nearby. Elevation 7500 feet. Season — May to October.

GRAYS MEADOW, located 5½ miles west of Independence on good paved road in the Sierra foothills along Independence Creek. 59 camp units. Piped water. Fishing, hiking, hunting. Elevation 6000 feet. Season — April to November. Newly reconstructed to modern standards. Fees are charged at this campground.

ONION VALLEY, located 14 miles west of Independence at terminus of newly constructed paved road. Highly scenic hanging valley with excellent fall color. 30 camp units with stoves. Piped water. Supplies at Independence. Fishing, hiking, hunting. Pack station adjacent. Elevation 9000 feet. Season — May to October. Recently reconstructed to modern standards. No trailers permitted. Fees are charged at this campground.

OAK CREEK RECREATION AREA

Located directly west of old Fort Independence. Supplies and facilities available in Independence. A lightly developed area along the north fork of Oak Creek. Gateway to John Muir Wilderness and Baxter Pass. Administered by the District Ranger, Lone Pine, California.

LOWER OAK CREEK, located 2 miles west of Fort Independence (which is 2 miles north of Independence) on paved road. In the foothills. 6 units. Stream water. Fishing. Elevation 4500 feet. Season — year long.

OAK CREEK, located 4 miles west of Fort Independence on north fork of Oak Creek. In the foothills. 6 camps. Stream water. Fishing. Elevation 5000 feet. Season — May to October.

UPPER OAK CREEK, located 6 miles west of Fort Independence on north fork of Oak Creek at terminus of newly constructed road. Unimproved. Stream water. Fishing, hiking. Elevation 6000 feet. Season — May to October.

FOREST OF THE ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINES AREA This area administered by the District Ranger, Bishop, California.

GRANDVIEW, on the White Mountain Road 5 miles north of Westgard Pass and 2 miles south of the Forest of the Ancient Bristlecone Pines. 6 camp units. No water. Elevation 8600 feet. Season — June to September.

Map Courtesy of Dept. Of Water & Power
City of Los Angeles

SCHULMAN MEMORIAL GROVE PICNIC GROUND, located in the area of the oldest trees and named after the discoverer of them, Dr. Edmund Schulman. 6 picnic units. No water. Elevation 10,000 feet. Season — June to September.

PATRIARCH PICNIC GROUND, located 12 miles north of Schulman Grove on rough gravel high altitude road. The largest known bristlecone pine, the Patriarch, is nearby. 5 picnic units. No water. Elevation 11,500 feet. Season — July to September.

FIRST FALLS, on Big Pine Creek. 1 mile west of Glacier Lodge on narrow graded road. Gateway to Palisade Glacier Trail. Located in small hanging valley among pine and birch. 15 camps. Stream water. Supplies at Glacier Lodge. Palisade Glacier (southernmost in the U.S.) 12 miles west by trail. Elevation 8500 feet. Fishing, hunting, hiking. Season — May to October.

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